

**Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board  
Report for Resolution**

**Report to:** Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board – 2 November 2016

**Subject:** Annual Report of Manchester Safeguarding Childrens Board April 2015  
– March 2016

**Report of:** Paul Marshall, Strategic Director of Childrens Services  
Julia Stephens-Row, Independent Chair of Manchester Safeguarding  
Childrens Board

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**Summary**

This is a covering report providing an overview of Manchester Safeguarding Childrens Board Annual Report which is for the period from April 2015 - March 2016. This document reports on the work of the partnership

**Recommendations**

The Board is asked to:

- i) Note the publication of the Manchester Safeguarding Childrens Board (MSCB) Annual report 2015 - 2016
- ii) To promote the importance of safeguarding of children and young people across all the partners and in the services they commission ensuring that safeguarding is at the heart of all that is delivered

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**Board Priority(s) Addressed:**

<b>Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority</b>	<b>Summary of contribution to the strategy</b>
Getting the youngest people in our communities off to the best start	Overseeing and assuring that prevention and early help offers are in place assist with this priority
Improving people's mental health and wellbeing	
Bringing people into employment and ensuring good work for all	
Enabling people to keep well and live independently as they grow older	
Turning round the lives of troubled families as part of the Confident and Achieving Manchester programme	The MSCB has a number of priorities which support this including strategies for missing from home, education and care and child sexual exploitation

One health and care system – right care, right place, right time	
Self-care	

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

[http://www.manchesterscb.org.uk/docs/MSCB%20Annual%20Report%202014\\_15%20FINAL%20published%20230316.pdf](http://www.manchesterscb.org.uk/docs/MSCB%20Annual%20Report%202014_15%20FINAL%20published%20230316.pdf)

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Manchester Safeguarding Childrens Board (MSCB) annual report covers the period from April 2015 - March 2016. This report demonstrates the significant amount of work undertaken across a range of organisations and in partnerships to safeguard Children and Young people in Manchester.
- 1.2 This report contains information from many of the partners on the Board of the work they have undertaken in the last year in this area. It also provides information on the work of the various sub groups which report to the Board. The information in this report pre dates my appointment as chair in July 2016 however I am keen to ensure that the work undertaken by previous chairs is built upon and taken forward.
- 1.3 Throughout this report there is information on the performance and effectiveness of local services to safeguarding Children and Young people. There is also information on how the Board has focused on issues which are important to children and young people, such as Child Sexual Exploitation. The Board is starting to develop its expertise and understanding of the issues behind child neglect and early help, which are two of the priorities for Manchester. The Board has also been successful in revising the Multi-agency Decisions Framework which defines levels of need across all services operating outside universal provision. More details of this and other work is contained within the executive summary and the main report.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Safeguarding Children's Boards are in place across the country and have a legal duty "to co ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such persons or body for those purposes".
- 2.2 Principles and Priorities

Identified responsibilities and principles for the Board from the business plan 2105-2017 will continue to underpin the work of the Board these are:

**Leadership:** Through clarification of Board members' responsibilities and commitment, clear business planning, quality assurance and performance improvement framework, to drive change and demonstrate the leadership role of the MSCB.

**Challenge:** Through a multi-agency audit programme of focussed, themed audits, Section 11 audits and QA & Performance Improvement Framework, to identify areas of concern and seek improvement plans.

**Learning:** Through publication of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and dissemination of associated learning, development of the multi agency

Training Programme and integration of learning from the audit programme, to learn from, and change, practice.

In addition, to focus on scrutiny and seeking reassurance about the effectiveness of integrated working arrangements, with the emphasis on quality and impact, the following priority areas were agreed by the MSCB in August 2016.

**Early Help.** To assess the effectiveness of the preventative services being provided to children and families, with an emphasis on Early Help.

**Complex Safeguarding** To ensure the effectiveness of thematic strategies, plans, developments and provide a challenge and support role within the context of operational delivery in the following work streams: Child Sexual Exploitation; Missing from home, care and education; Gangs and violence; Modern Slavery and Trafficking; Radicalisation and extremism; Female Genital Mutilation / Honour based violence; and Understanding / identifying emerging areas of risk e.g. Cyber crime

**Domestic Violence & Abuse (DV&A).** To ensure the focus of the impact of domestic violence and abuse on children and young people is enhanced and is in line with the DV&A Strategy, with emphasis on understanding and responding to underlying causes.

**Neglect.** To develop and assess the impact of the Neglect Strategy and use the learning from SCRs where neglect is a significant factor, identify themes and integrate that learning into the multi-agency training programme.

**SCR learning.** To ensure that the learning and recommendations from SCRs, Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and other local and national reviews are identified and tracked and that action plans are followed up in order to make sure that learning has changed practice.

**Partnership engagement with Children and Young People (CYP).** To share examples of good practice and assure the effectiveness of partnership engagement with CYP. In addition, to ensure that the Board itself is informed of and responds to the priorities and concerns of CYP in Manchester.

### 2.3 Improvement Journey

Since 2014 when Ofsted found the MSCB to be inadequate a considerable amount of work has been undertaken to address the issues raised. Regular reports have been made to the Improvement Board and there has been positive feedback on the progress has been made. The Improvement plan that has been in place for some time was considered in detail at the Improvement Board in September 2016 and the vast majority of areas have been addressed. Any outstanding actions being now integrated into the MSCB business plan.

### 2.4 Challenges

As part of the improvement journey the MSCB conducted a self assessment which was concluded in August 2016 this identified a number of challenges going forward which include:

- The role of the different sub groups and some members of the Board Leadership Group could be strengthened and made clearer.
- A renewed and clear focus on discussions leading to impact for the child or young person would be helpful.
- Whilst the protocols between the different partnership Boards has a strong memorandum of agreement, more cross referencing of priorities and active tasking between the activities and impact of each may assist.
- The Serious Case Review subgroup needs to bring learning from Serious Case Reviews systematically into the learning and development activities of the Board.
- A focus on the Early Help offer, all be it relatively new in Manchester, could give rise to good learning about children and family voices.
- Recently improved performance data and information could increasingly involve all agencies.
- Evaluation of training could be carried out in a way that demonstrates more impact and improving outcomes for children and young people
- Improved communications, with more definitive actions and a summary of outcomes from Board meetings
- More focussed agendas
- Changes to the size of and representation on the Board
- Engagement with the views of children and young people
- Improved engagement with other local Boards, Partnerships and faith groups
- Improved Board visibility, both with the public and by engagement with frontline services.

Work has started to address a number of these challenges and by doing so we will ensure that the MSCB is a strong partnership, focussed on challenge and improvement; and with a constant emphasis on the impact for children and young people

### 3. Conclusion

As a new chair I am looking forward to developing the work of the MSCB and I intend that in my other role as the Independent Chair of the Manchester Safeguarding Adults Board to ensure that closer working is able to take place across both Boards. The work and reach of the MSCB, as evidenced in this report is considerable, however there is much more to do if as a partnership we are to achieve the vision of the MSCB that ***Every child and young person in Manchester should be able to grow up safe; free from abuse, neglect or crime; so allowing them to enjoy a happy and healthy childhood and fulfill their potential***